

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, June 10. 1782.

IT is now come to a Point; the Queen has given from her own Mouth the State of the Peace in View; it is not for me, or any in my Station, to meddle with the Articles; no question but our Politicians will be taken up in Canvassing them over and over.

The only Thing that I foresee can be Objected against by them, is the giving Spain and the Indies to the Possession of King Philip, which I suppose is founded upon his Renouncing his Pretensions to the Crown of France: I know French Renunciations have had but little Re-

putation in the World, but I see where the Solidity of this is plac'd, viz. Upon the other Heirs of Bourbon being always Interested to keep out the Pretensions of Philip or his Posterity; I confess there seems to me no Security like that of Interest, to barr the Accession of Princes, to the Crowns of this or that Nation: However, as this is a New Point, no Man shall say I espouse this or that, as a Party; I therefore forbear to give my Opinion as a Leader to any one; I confess I had rather have seen a good Portion of the Indies fall to the Share of the

Queen

Queen of Great Britain, than have let either Party have had it All, because I believe we know better how to improve it than they, and also have done more to merit that Recompence, than any Body, and because I have all along talk'd on this Head, with a View at Elevating the Protestant Powers of Europe to a pitch of Greatness, able to protect their Religious Interests against the Insults of *Papery*, whenever that Time shall come, *as I firmly believe it will*, that a Religious War shall inflame the World.

Upon this Foundation I have always Argued for breaking the Spanish Monarchy to pieces, and for giving such Additions of Power and Extent of Commerce to England and Holland, as should in its Nature, more firmly Unite the British and Dutch Interests, and by its Consequence, makes those Powers more Formidable to the World.

If I may judge at all of the Affair as it now stands, it turns wholly upon the Validity of the Renunciation of King Philip, and the Powers reserv'd in the Confederates to enforce it — And I'll lay it down as impartially as I can, without Respect of Persons; I hope my Freedom shall be justify'd by all honest Men.

If the Renunciation be a Sham, a Cheat, a Thing of Nothing, a Thing to be told about as Interest directs, and made only to amuse, if it can have no Effect, to bind the Heirs of Bourbon, &c. as some People would persuade us, then all the foul Things that have been said of this Peace, may be allow'd to be well-grounded, and those who are so warm against it, have Reason.

But if this Renunciation differs from others; if it effectually divides the Branch of Philip from the rest of the House of Bourbon; if it Engages the Line of Berry and the Line of Orleans for ever, a-

gainst the Line of Anjou, and Léaguës all the present Confederacy with France, in Defence of the Duke of Berry's Pretensions, and if this be allow'd, sufficient Security, then the Case quite alters, and Philip is consider'd as a Third Person, no more Ally'd to France than a Stranger, and as safe, respecting French Greatness, to enjoy the Spanish Dominions, as a Branch of the House of Austria.

So that the whole Dispute now turns upon this single Expedient, and the only Question which remains, is, whether the Renunciation and Guarantee above-said, be a sufficient Security to Europe, that the Kingdoms of France and Spain shall never come under the Dominion of the same Person? — And as this is a Point which may take up the Heads and Hands of Europe for some Time, I shall not give my Opinion one Way or other so hastily as some expect.

But I must now turn a little upon those forward Authors, who have cried out so loudly of a Separate Peace, and a Peace made already, even as far back as October — I think they may find Room to blame themselves, and blush at the Assurance and Rashness with which they ran away with that Notion, since after all, it appears, that whatever Separate Transactions have pass'd, her Majesty has avoided three Things in these Transactions.

1. No Separate Article has been made to the Advantage of Britain, in Prejudice of the Interest of any of the Allies, I mean no acquisition to Us is made, by which any of the Allies are Injur'd, or can be made Jealous.
2. No Separate Treaty has been made, so, as to omit a due Concern for the

the Interest of the rest of the Confederates.

3. No Separate Peace is so concluded, as to withdraw from the Confederacy, and leave the Enemy to fall upon our Allies, to force them into it; but tho' her Majesty may not have been willing, when a Peace is thus in View, to throw away the Lives of so many Thousand Men as must necessarily fall in a Battle, yet the Army continues to protect the Allies, and openly joins in the present Undertaking against Quesnoy.

Now the World must be judge between the Queen of Great Britain and Her Allies, whether Her Majesty acts Her Part justly and fairly or no—And whether the Case of a Separate Peace is in the Charge, as some would alledge.

Mean time I ended my last, with giving you an odd kind of reason, why I did not believe we should yet make a Separate Peace with France, and I came to the Point without any Ceremony, viz. That I did not believe the Allies would let you do it: I now come to explain myself; nothing that yet appears of the Peace, having given me the least Cause to alter that Opinion.

The Third Article of our Apprehensions, which I gave you lately, as the Consequences People pretend to fear from the Peace, was, the Confederates declaring War against us.

This is the Effect of those Mercurial People's Imaginations, who are so warm upon us in behalf of the Confederates, on the Occasion of the Peace, that not content to tell us the Resolutions of the States-General, of the Emperor, and of the Princes who have Troops in the Army, tho' nothing is more true, than that they know nothing at all of them, how

that These are resolv'd to push on the War without the British Alliance, and Those have resolved to pay their own Troops; yet we all know, not one of them, the Elector of Hannover excepted, are able to do it, No, nor to pay their own Debts neither, any more than their Neighbours—Not content, I say, with this, they talk now, with equal Flibidin, of the Allies, turning Faces about, and declaring against Britain also, by Way of Satisfaction for deserting the Grand Alliance.

I shall wave the just Remarks on this Poolish Talk, which really is no more than talk, and that very insignificant too, and come to my Point, viz. To tell you what I mean by the Allies not letting us make a Separate Peace; there's very little Riddle in it—The following Story will go a great Way to make it plain.

Jack and Tom agree to go a Journey together.

Upon the Road they differ.

Says Jack to Tom, let us go to York. I won't, says Tom, it is out of our Way.

But I will go by York, says Jack, and if you won't, I'll go without you. That isn't fair, says Tom, for we Agreed when we set out, not to part Company.

It is no matter for that, says Jack, we have Rambled this Way out of our Road, and lost ourselves; the Road by York is good and safe, and I know the Way, I'll go that Way. You are a Fool, says Tom, and a Knave too, for parting Company, besides, they Cheat you, that tell you the Road to York is good, and I wont go that Way.

Nay,

Nay, says Jack, if that be the Method you deal with me, if that be the RETURN you make me for Travelling thus far with you, and bearing the GREATEST SHARE of the EXPENCE of the Journey, and now for Advising you to go the best Road, do you give me ill Language? I tell you I'll go no farther this Way, I'll go without you.

You shan't, tho', says Tom.

Why, what will you do, says Jack? D—b! says Tom, as bad a K——e as you are, we won't fall out neither, I'll go with you, rather than be left so far off of Home.

And so they very lovingly Travelled on the rest of their Journey; whether of the two, Jack or Tom, was in the Right, we may tell you, when we give a Journal of the rest of their Travels, but for the present, this may Illustrate our Story.

England, Holland, &c. set out this Journey together, and a great Way they went Hand in Hand: It seems, at last, they differ about several Things, such as

the length of the Way, the Expence of Travelling, the Hazards of the Road, the Gain of the Journey, and the like: I have nothing to do here with the particulars of the Disputes, they are not to the present Purpose at all, nor are they much the wiser, who have spent so much of their Time, and vented so much of their Spleen on both Sides upon this Subject; their Arguments having principally serv'd only to exasperate and provoke one Side against another; widen that Breach which these Things have made, in the Peace and good Neighbourhood of our People at Home, one Side against another, and to raising Feuds, Heats, and Animosities among us, without adding to, or diminishing from the Measures which the Nations take on one Side, or on the other.

Now the Travellers seem to be parted, as to the Journey; Britain having resolv'd to go a Way which the other would fain avoid; and what is the Consequence? Do you think the Dutch will part Company? You may think as you please, but I do not believe a Word of it, nor will I believe a Word of it till I see farther.

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